Title: Need to start work on Erode-Palani via Dharampuram New Railway Scheme.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): In my Palani Parliamentary Constituency, the towns of Palani, Kangayarn, Sivanmalai and Sennimalai are abodes of Lord Karthik and another town in between the above towns is Dharapuram an ancient historic town. The places Kangayarn, Sennimalai are famous for textiles, rice mills, oil mills and milk products and have a large number of Export Oriented Industries.

After assumption of UPA Government in Centre in 2004, I raised the issue of connecting Erode to Palani via Dharapuram by a train route during the discussion on Railway Budget 2004-05 and also wrote a number of letters to Hon'ble Railway Minister. After much persuasion, Hon'ble Railway Minster announced the Erode-Palani via Dharapuram New Railway scheme for Survey in the Railway Budget 2005-06 and allocated funds for survey. The survey was conducted by the Southern Railway authorities and a report also submitted to Railway Board on 30.11.2006.

I now request the Railway Ministry to approve the survey report and take up this New Railway BG line between Erode-Palani via Dharapuram on priority basis and allocate necessary funds so that the work can be started immediately.